

Testimony Before the Environment Committee on House Bill No. 5145  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PORTABLE WASTEWATER CONTAINERS  
February 25, 2022

Good morning, Chairman Cohen, Chairman Gresko and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Peter Brown. I am the owner of Lone Oak Campsites in East Canaan, CT . I am also the Immediate Past Chair of the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC) and a Board Member of the Connecticut Campground Owners Association (CCOA)

I am speaking to you today in support of **House Bill No. 5145 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PORTABLE WASTEWATER CONTAINERS.**

I would first like to express my sincerest thanks to Chairman Cohen, Chairman Gresko, Senator Miner, Representative Harding and Members of the Environment Committee for raising this bill. Your efforts to deal with this issue in a positive manner is very gratifying.

We have submitted almost 50 letters of written testimony in support of this bill from both campgrounds and individual campers who seek and appreciate your positive support.

I would like to make a couple of points for your consideration.

- The use of portable wastewater containers (otherwise known as blue boy tanks) is approved in state operated campgrounds, but not in private family campgrounds in Connecticut. This has resulted in numerous complaints by campers who camp in both state and private family campgrounds. This causes a great deal of confusion as to why it's ok in one situation but not in another.
- According to the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC), blue boy tanks are allowed to be used in private family campgrounds in every other state in the country.
- Connecticut regulations (Sec. 19a-2a-29) do not specifically mention or prohibit the use of blue boy tanks in private family campgrounds. They do mention allowing the use of "honey wagons" (campground provided pump out services). The Connecticut Department of Public Health interpretation of the regulations has been that honey wagons are allowed but use of blue boys is not. Again, no specific mention of blue boy tanks exists in the regulations.
- Blue boy tanks are commonly used everywhere camping takes place. They are designed specifically for the purpose of bringing wastewater to the proper dump station.
- As it relates to possible spillage concerns, campgrounds already have safety plans in place in the case of a leak from their honey wagons which would make cleanup of a potential blue boy spill much easier and more effective than somewhere else where no plan is in place.

The campground industry in Connecticut is a significant economic contributor with almost a quarter of a billion dollars (\$210,700,000) of expenditures annually. Eighty-six dollars (\$86) per person/per day or \$344 per family of four per day is spent in the community. Almost 1,000 direct jobs with \$36.1 million in annual direct wages are a result of these small businesses.

We ask for your continued support for this important industry. I am ready to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for your time and consideration.